

large part of these are evidently Indian, and may have useful or curious significations, there are others mixed with them made by white men. Among the latter, I would indicate the five-pointed star in a rude circle.

This rock is 15 miles southeast of Fort Harker, and 492 miles west of St. Louis. There are many others, covered in like manner with rude aboriginal devices, in the West. It is to be hoped that all may be copied as faithfully as this. These may be, hereafter, very curious and valuable, as relics of a race which is fast fading away, a race so irreclaimable and so worthless, that it is difficult for the philanthropist to regret their departure.

Pending nominations Nos. 586, 587 and 588 were read.
And the Society was adjourned.

Stated Meeting, March 20, 1868.

Present, eight members.

Prof. CRESSON, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Donations for the Library were announced: from the Royal Prussian Academy of Sciences at Berlin; from the Geographical Society of Paris; from the Essex Institute at Salem; from the Trustees of the Peabody Museum; from John Alexander Ferris, A.M., San Francisco; from the United States Naval Observatory; from the Young Men's Library Association of Cincinnati; from the Editors of the Journal of Arts and Sciences; from the Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia; from the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind; and from P. B. Dyke.

Mr. P. E. Chase called the attention of the Society to an article in the last number of the American Journal of Arts and Sciences on the subject of revolving meteoric trains observed at Dartmouth College and Iowa City.

Mr. Marsh, in reference to the shooting stars of November, 1867, stated that he had received a letter from B. R. Lewis, Deputy U. S. Consul-General at Shanghai, from which he read the following abstracts from the logs of vessels stationed at that port:

U. S. STEAMER "ASHUELOT," CAPT. FEBIGER:

November 15th, 1867, 4h. to 8h. A.M. Large number of shooting stars to the N. and E., falling to the N., visible until broad daylight. Clear and cold; light N. W. winds.

U. S. STEAMER "MONOCACY," CAPT. CARTER:

November 15th, 1867. From midnight to 4h. A.M. At 2h. 5m. observed a number of meteors falling from the westward towards the eastern portion of the heavens. This shower of meteors continued till 4h., decreasing in numbers from 3h., and seven or eight being the largest number visible at one time.

The largest one appeared to be travelling in an eastern direction.

The sky was clear except a small bank of cumulus cloud over the eastern horizon.

The largest meteors were very bright, and little larger than stars of the first magnitude.

Barometer 30.36. Temperature fair; 38° at 2 o'clock, and 36° at 4 o'clock.

From 4h. to 8h. A.M. Between 4h. and 5h., observed several meteors falling to the eastward.

The following notice of the same display is from the Shanghai News Letter of January 16th:

From Mr. O. B. Bradford of the U. S. Consular Service, we obtained the following glowing account of the meteoric shower of 1867, as witnessed by him not far from the Great Wall of China. It was on the morning of the 15th November, while on his way back from the Nankow Pass, and when about 50 miles N.N.W. of Pekin, that Mr. Bradford observed these grand phenomena of the heavens. The moon was shining brightly, and occasional clouds were visible in the southwest heavens, while the wind came in puffs from the mountain ranges to the north-west, when at about 5.15 A.M., his attention was first attracted by the wild shouting of his guide, and he was not a little startled to find himself a witness to the annual meteoric shower in that quarter of the world. The grand spectacle was displayed in an arc of not less than 120° in the northeastern portion of the firmament, which at times seemed to be rent in twain from about

25° of the zenith, by solid masses of luminous bodies, of various magnitudes and surprising brilliancy, which darted in dazzling confusion across his vision, and again several hundred of these meteors of different sizes would be observed at the same time, all emitting the most intense light, and the nebulae of the largest lasting sometimes three minutes. One of these monsters shone with a distinctive brightness above that of the moon, as it issued from about 15° of the north star, and passed vertically below the horizon, giving forth as it fell coruscations of various bright colors, and when disappearing its nebulae resembled a waterspout in high latitudes. It was not until quite 6.30 A.M. that the approaching dawn began to dim the glory of this fiery exhibition, and the rising sun soon brought an end to the exciting display.

These accounts are interesting and valuable as showing that the relative position of the several branches of the grand meteoric stream was quite different from that observed when the earth passed through it the year previous.

The observations of 1866 afforded no ground for expecting this Asiatic display of 1867.

Nominations Nos. 586, 587 and 588 were read.

On motion it was ordered that the North China branch of the Royal Asiatic Society be placed on the list of corresponding societies for exchange.

And the Society was adjourned.

Stated Meeting, April 3, 1868.

Present, sixteen members.

Dr. WOOD, President, in the Chair.

Letters were read: From the University at Lund, in Sweden, dated March 9, 1868, inviting attendance at the celebration of their 200th anniversary, commencing on the 6th of June, 1868. When, on motion, the President was authorized to appoint one or more members of this Society to attend this anniversary celebration. From the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, March 24, 1868, requesting information